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## Summary of decisions taken at a meeting of the SELEP Accountability Board, held at the Launchpad - Southend Airport Business Park, Rochford SS4 1YH on Friday, 22 September 2023

Published on Friday 22 September 2023. Provided a decision has not been called in by close of business on Wednesday 27 September 2023 it can then be implemented.

Please note that this is a summary of decisions taken at the meeting only. A full account of proceedings will appear in the minutes of the meeting which will be published on the Council's website by Tuesday 10 October 2023.

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### Present:

|                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Simon Cook            | Chair                           |
| Cllr Kevin Bentley    | Essex County Council            |
| Cllr Roger Gough      | Kent County Council             |
| Cllr Keith Glazier    | East Sussex County Council      |
| Cllr Lauren Edwards   | Medway Council                  |
| Cllr John Lamb        | Southend-on-Sea City Council    |
| Cllr Andrew Jefferies | Thurrock Council                |
| Abbie Kempe           | Higher Education Representative |

### 1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Tony Cox substituted by Cllr John Lamb

### 2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 16 June 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

### 3 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

### 4 Questions from the public

There were none.

### 5 SELEP Operations Update

The Accountability Board (the Board) received a report from Keri Lawrence, SELEP Governance Officer, which was presented by Helen Russell Chief

Executive Officer SELEP, the purpose of which was for the Board to be updated on the operational activities carried out by the Secretariat to support both this Board and the Strategic Board. The report included an update on the SELEP transition arrangements, risk management, compliance with the Assurance Framework and performance against governance KPIs.

**Resolved:**

1. **To Note** the update on decisions taken by the Strategic Board for the transition of the LEP and the integration of its activities into Local Authorities at Section 4 of the report;
2. **To Note** the summary of, and reflection on, the Government guidance for the Transfer of LEP core functions to local authorities at Section 5 of the report;
3. **To Note** the updated Risk Register in light of decisions taken by the Strategic Board and Government guidance at Section 6 and Appendix A of the report;
4. **To Note** the update on Assurance Framework compliance monitoring at Section 7 of the report;
5. **To Agree** to appoint Abbie Kempe and Thomas Wolfenden in a shared role as non-voting co-opted members of the Accountability Board on the nomination of the higher education sector as outlined at Section 8 of the report;
6. **To Note** the update on Governance KPIs at Appendix B of the report.

**6 SELEP Finance update**

The Board received a report from Lorna Norris, Senior Finance Business Partner, the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the update to the 2023/24 revenue budget and the impact for the funding position to support costs in future years.

**Resolved:**

1. **To Approve** the proposed 2023/24 updated SELEP revenue budget set out in Table 1 of the report, including the updated drawdown from the Operational Reserve of £650,000 to fund the planned net expenditure.
2. **To Note** the update on the funding risks and reserves set out in sections 3.9 and 3.10 of the report respectively.

**7 Growing Places Fund Programme update**

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, SELEP Capital Programme Manager, the purpose of which was to update the Board on the latest position of the Growing Places Fund (GPF) Capital Programme.

**Resolved:**

1. **To Note** the updated position on the GPF programme.
2. **To Agree** that a project update, change request and proposed revised repayment schedule for the Barnhorn Green Commercial and Health Development project should be presented at the Board meeting on 12 January 2024. Noting that if this requirement is not met or the revised proposals are not approved by the Board, the project will be automatically removed from the GPF programme.

**8 Getting Building Fund Programme Update**

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the overall position of the Getting Building Fund (GBF) capital programme. The report included an update on those projects which have received approval for retention of GBF funding beyond March 2022, provided an update on high risk projects and provided an update on GBF spend to date.

**Resolved:**

1. **To Note** the current forecast spend across the GBF programme for the 2023/24 financial year of £7.979m (excluding GBF funding which is not currently allocated to projects), as set out in Table 2 of the report.
2. **To Agree** that GBF spend on project delivery in 2022/23 totalled £15.508m, as set out in Table 1 and Appendix A of the report.
3. **To Note** the update on the Better Queensway project at Section 6 of the report.
4. **To Agree** that:
  - 4.1. a full update on the Better Queensway project which provides information on the chosen delivery route and associated delivery timetable, the status of the GBF funding, and which contains the required assurances regarding the ongoing delivery of the wider project should be provided at the January 2024 Board meeting; and
  - 4.2. the GBF funding allocation can be retained against the Better Queensway project for a further maximum period of 7 months (to 31 January 2024).
5. **To Agree** that the GBF funding allocation can be retained against the following projects for a further maximum period of 3 months (to 30 September 2023):
  - 5.1. No Use Empty South Essex

## 5.2. ASELA LFFN – Phase 3

6. **To Note** the deliverability and risk assessment, as set out in Appendix C of the report.

## 9 Local Growth Fund Programme Update

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, the purpose of which was for the Board to consider the overall position of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) capital programme, as part of SELEP's Growth Deal with Government.

### Resolved:

1. **To Agree** that LGF spend in 2022/23 totalled £12.447m LGF excluding Department for Transport (DfT) retained schemes and £12.685m including DfT retained schemes, as set out in Table 1 and Appendix A of the report.

2. **To Agree** the updated total planned LGF spend on project delivery in 2023/24 of £9.057m excluding DfT retained schemes and increasing to £9.142m including DfT retained schemes, as set out in Table 2 and Appendix A of the report.

3. **To Agree** that, following the removal of the Housing Infrastructure Fund funding, the £1.821m LGF awarded to the A289 Four Elms roundabout to Medway Tunnel project can be retained against the project whilst Medway Council takes steps to identify and secure alternative funding sources to enable delivery of the project. Noting that a further update on the project will be provided at the January 2024 Board meeting.

4. **To Note** the deliverability and risk assessment, as set out in Appendix D of the report.

## 10 Hastings and Bexhill Movement and Access Package LGF project change

The Board received a report from Helen Dyer, the purpose of which was to receive an update on the Hastings and Bexhill Movement and Access Package Local Growth Fund (LGF) project (the Project) and to consider a request to change the scope of the Project. In addition, the Board were asked to consider the updated completion date for the Project set out within the report.

### Resolved:

1. **To Agree** that the proposed change of scope for the Hastings and Bexhill Movement and Access Package can be implemented. Noting that the Independent Technical Evaluator has assessed the Project as offering High value for money with Medium certainty of achieving this.

2. **To Agree** the updated completion date of March 2026 (delayed from Summer 2025) for the Hastings and Bexhill Movement and Access Package.

3. **To Agree** that a review will be undertaken to determine if there is a compelling case for East Sussex County Council to retain LGF of up to £630,488 against the Project to inform a decision at the November 2023 Board meeting.

#### 11 **Queensway Gateway Road LGF Project Update**

The Board received a report from Richard Dawson, Head of Service - Economic Development, Skills and Infrastructure and Helen Dyer which was presented by Rebecca Newby, Team Manager, Major Projects & Growth, East Sussex County Council, the purpose of which was for the Board to receive a further progress update on the delivery of the Queensway Gateway Road Local Growth Fund (LGF) project (the Project).

##### **Resolved:**

1. **To Note** the latest update position on the delivery of the Project.

2. **To Note** that East Sussex County Council is working with its delivery partner to ascertain the extent to which further resource is required to complete the project.

3. **To Agree** that a clear delivery plan, including an indicative delivery programme, total project cost and funding package, should be provided at the January 2024 Board meeting.

4. **To Agree** that the Board will be provided with a further update on the Project at its meeting in November 2023.

#### 12 **A13 Widening LGF Project Update**

The Board received a report from Kevin Munnelly, Assistant Director Regeneration and Place Delivery, Thurrock Council and Howard Davies, SELEP Capital Programme Officer, the purpose of which was for the Board to receive an update on the delivery of the A13 Widening Local Growth Fund (LGF) project (the Project) which has been assessed as being High risk.

##### **Resolved:**

1. **To Note** the update on the project, including the lessons learnt.

2. **To Note** that an update including an updated Value for Money assessment will be brought to the November 2023 Board meeting.

#### 13 **London Gateway/Stanford le Hope LGF Project Update**

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The Board received a report from Kevin Munnely and Leslie Rickerby, SELEP Capital Programme Officer, the purpose of which was for the Board to receive an update on the delivery of the London Gateway/Stanford le Hope Local Growth Fund (LGF) project (the Project).

The report included an update on progress of Phase 1 and progress on Phase 2 design options.

**Resolved:**

1. **To Note** the update on project delivery set out within this report.
2. **To Note** that a further update on delivery of the Project and the status of the required Business Case will be brought to the November 2023 Board meeting.

**14 Beaulieu Park Station LGF Project Update**

The Board received a report from Gary Macdonnell, Network Coordinator, Essex County Council and Leslie Rickerby, the purpose of which was for the Board to receive an update on the Beaulieu Park Station Local Growth Fund (LGF) project (the Project) which has been identified as High risk.

**Resolved:**

1. **To Note** the update on the Project and the risks to project delivery which have been identified.
2. **To Note** a further update on the Project will be brought to the November 2023 Board meeting which will include an update on all aspects of the Project.

**15 A28 Sturry Link Road LGF Project Update**

The Board received a report from Kerry Clarke, Senior Project Manager - Major Capital Programme Team, Kent County Council and Leslie Rickerby, which was presented by Lee Burchill, Major Capital Programme Manager, Kent County Council, the purpose of which was for the Board to receive an update on the A28 Sturry Link Road Local Growth Fund (LGF) project (the Project), which has been identified as High Risk.

**Resolved:**

1. **To Note** the update on the project, specifically:
  - 1.1. that conclusion of the negotiations between the developer and land owner of the Sturry site has been delayed.
  - 1.2. the design and build contract is due to be signed in September 2023.

1.3. the delay to the publication of the Compulsory Purchase Order which is now expected by the end of October 2023.

1.4. the update on the status of the planning application for the North Hersden development, and the revised date for determination of the planning application (December 2023).

2. **To Note** that a further update will be brought to the November 2023 Board meeting which will provide a full update on the status of the Project.

**16 Date of Next Meeting**

The Board noted that the next meeting will be held on Friday 17 November 2023 to be held at Mid Kent College (Maidstone campus)

**17 Urgent Business**

None.